

Citywide Council for District 75

RECORD CALENDAR MEETING

Date: October 16, 2019 **Time:** 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM **Location:** DeWitt Clinton H.S., 100 W. Mosholu Parkway, BX, NY

MEETING CALLED BY	Grisel Cardona , Recording Secretary
FACILITATOR	Grisel Cardona , Recording Secretary
TIME KEEPER	Constance Asiedu , Public Advocate Appointee
ROLL CALL & NOTE TAKER	Grisel Cardona , Recording Secretary
ATTENDEES	Amy Ming Tsai , Council Member- Present, Tiesha Groover , Council Member-Excused, Shamel Lawrence, Sr. , President-Excused, Grisel Cardona , Council Member-Present, Constance Asiedu , Public Advocate Appointee- Present, Craig E. Spencer , Parliamentarian- Excused and Debra Altman , Council Member- Excused
MEETING START	Start: 6:39pm Adjourn: 8: 32pm

No Quorum

Agenda Item: Bronx Legal Services will provide information on how their office can assist parents with legal services addressing the systemic causes on education impacting students with disabilities and their families. Also providing assistance to the community when I.C.E. is at your door or your child’s school.

Presenter: Nelson Mar, Esq., Education Law Specialist Senior Staff Attorney, Legal Services NYC-Bronx
Provided information for families on how Bronx Legal Services assist parents.

- ◆ His law office is located in the Bronx and is free for low-income families.
- ◆ Mr. Mar expertise is in education law and an advocate for special education.
- ◆ Most of his clients are parents who have a child attending a District 75 Program.
- ◆ His law office advocates, put forth and support policies that address serious, concerning issues within District 75.
- ◆ He spoke briefly about knowing your rights when a school calls 911 on your child.
- ◆ He provided brief tips on IEP Meetings as well as informing parents IEP Meetings should not happen without the parent being present. Also parents are allowed to request and have representation at the meetings.

Agenda Item: District 75 programs at DeWitt Clinton High School **Presenter:** Nicole Yezzo, Assistant Principal, 721X

- ◆ She mentioned they currently have the eight classes.
- ◆ Transitioning has been successful.
- ◆ They are in collaboration with “Bronx Collaborative” with Alex Schneider
 - PSA (PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS): Exit policies and procedures
 - The staff acknowledges the students function best when there is silence within the hallways.
 - Student actors-world View
- ◆ World View: two AP students, mentoring ship program.
- ◆ Currently writing a proposal on how to post or select a student.

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- ◆ For the past two months 721X has an ADL program as well as a study programs.

Agenda Item: The Fathers Initiatives a Successful support Group for Fathers Who Have a Child Attending a District 75 School.

Presenter: Ray Velez, Family Leadership Coordinator, District 75

- ◆ Mr. Velez is the FLC: Family Leadership Coordinator for D75.
- ◆ He works with the parent associations, president's council and CCD75
- ◆ He provides resources to the families of District 75.
- ◆ Mr. Velez formats a training session for the District 75 Parent Coordinators Best Practices, ex. How to improve communication to the families they serve.
- ◆ The District Office Collaborated with Microsoft to host educational, informational session for the Parent Coordinators.
- ◆ Mr. Velez hosts an event called Moro Fare: carnival like event, with resources for families, bringing in the professionals to help families at home.
- ◆ He works closely with the school community including an array of departments for the Fathers Initiative:
- ◆ Arts Dept.: To have outings to bring the arts, and families can experience theater, working to get tickets.
- ◆ Visions Dept.: partnered up with District 75 for the blind
- ◆ Literacy Dept.: trained parent coordinators other forms of communication without offending anyone.
- ◆ The Fathers Initiative is a support group and vehicle for getting fathers of District 75 involved in their child's education and school community. What does it mean to be a father who is involved, supports and contributes to the school community as well as their daily educational needs?
- ◆ At the end of the year, a celebration is held in honor of the fathers.
- ◆

Agenda Item: interpretation Services: A Service provided by the DOE for Parents to Use When Calling Their Childs School, Meeting with or Attending an Annual IEP Meeting

Presenter: Alex Cintron Carrasco, Associate Director of language Access, Translation & Interpretation Unit, NYC DOE, Translation and interpretation Services

- ◆ Translation & Interpretation Services will translate documents such as flyers and IEP documents for CEC's , Schools, the Main office and departments at the DOE.
- ◆ They translate and interpret nine languages however any other languages needed; they have an outside vendor who provides the languages needed to complete the work. There are two vendors: one for central and one school events.

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- ◆ His department has a new IEP translation program you can access the NYC DOE website to review.
- ◆ His office will provide services to translate an array of languages for a parent teacher conferences, phone calls (that can be accessed 24/7), CEC meetings and parent forums.
- ◆ ASL has a separate department for those who are in need of documents translated into braille.
- ◆ A parent inquired, “What are you doing to expand and the quality of interpretation services is?”
 - Alex response to questions by informing the parent his office services are free to no cost; they have a separate contract vendor but school must use translation money and they are placing policies and systems in place.

Agenda Item: Sinergia, INC: Learn how to be an Empowered Advocate for your child, monthly workshops and presentations will be available including the services they provide.

Presenter: Godfrey Rivera, Co-Director autism Spectrum Initiative & MPC Training & Development, Sinergia Inc.

- ◆ Tabled, unfortunately Mr. Rivera had to cancel due to unseen circumstance.

Agenda Item: Superintendent’s Report

Presenter: Ketler Louissant, Superintendent, District 75

- ◆ The Superintendent thanked the current members and audience for attending the meeting on a rainy day, because it meant dedication to the Council, School Community and District.
- ◆ He announced the presence of Dr. Beverly the D75 Bronx Field Support Liaison and the Assistant Principal Nicole Yezzo of P721X: DeWitt Clinton High School.
- ◆ He had given an update about OPT and mentioned the second in command was Jol Mendoza.
- ◆ Sup. Louissant mentioned children receiving bus services who are in an afterschool program.

Public Comment:

- ◆ UFT on CTE for D75
- ◆ Collaboration with CEC10: CEC 10 President introduced himself, his role, projects he is/has worked on and would like to collaborate with CCD75 in the near future. He mentioned D75 is segregated from the general education population in the co-located sites and District 75 programs should be located on the first floors not top floors due to easy access for students/parents with physical disabilities. It is also a safety concern that should be taken into serious consideration.
- ◆ Raffle for parents: Congrats, to the mother who won the Goya gift basket.

Tabled Items:

- ◆ Vote: SY 2019-2020 CCD75 Budget
- ◆ Members Discuss; New Business
- ◆ Report of Committee Chairs and Borough Representatives
- ◆ President’s Report